

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to delete reference to a claim. Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 2-4 have been amended to provide their proper dependency. Claim 8 has been added.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Petros, U.S. Patent No. 3,842,639 (Petros). Claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fereday, et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,667,271 (Fereday) in view of Petros. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6 and 8 are patentable over the foregoing references.

Specifically, claim 8 recites that:

- (i) each of the support plates (2) is associated with an adjustment unit (28) having a variably adjustable position

and which provides for adjustment of a respective support plate relative to a respective roll stand (Fi) in the working roll-replacing position; and

- (ii) side guide rollers (27) are provided for preventing tilting of the support plates (12).

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing novel features of the present invention are neither disclosed or suggested in the prior art, including Petros and Fereday.

In view of the above, it is further respectfully submitted that claim 8 is patentable over the prior art and is allowable.

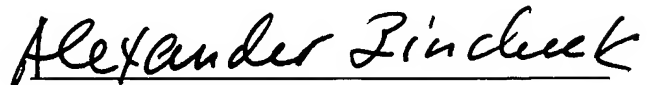
Claims 2-6 depend on claim 8, directly or indirectly, and are allowable for the same reasons claim 8 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



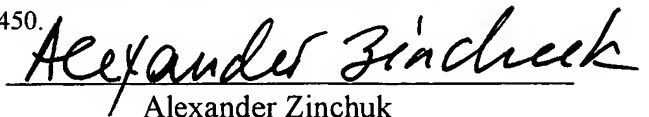
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